Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04250 271236Z ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8919

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4250

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FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MILI, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE ARMY REQUEST FOR 10,000 M-16'S

REF: STATE 189470

- 1. I SUGGEST ENGINE SPEED ON THIS ONE BE FULL-STOP, NOT SLOW.
- 2. I SIMPLY SEE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR GIVING THE LEBANESE ARMY 10,000 M-16 RIFLES AT THIS JUNCTURE. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ARMY NOW HAS ALL THE SMALL ARMS IT CAN EFFECTIVELY USE.
- 3. THE HADATH FIGHTING HAS THREATENED THE REMAINING CO-HESIVENESS NOT ONLY OF THE ARMY, BUT THE ENTIRE STATE. A SHIPMENT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE WIDELY INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT TO THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, GIVEN ACCUSATIONS BY LEBANESE MUSLIMS, SYRIANS, AND PALESTINIAN THAT MARONITES DOMINATE THE ARMY. AT THE MOMENT AT LEAST, AT BEST THESE RIFLES WOULD SIT IN STORAGE. AT WORST, THEY WOULD FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE HANDS OF VARIOUS MILITIA GROUPS. PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, CAT-B

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: LEBANESE ARMY REQUEST FOR 10,000 M-16\'S

TAGS: MILI, MASS, PGOV, LE, US

To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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